

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3270

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, LY

SUBJECT: CERP: 4251: LIBYAN CRUDE PRODUCTION STATISTICS

1. INDUSTRY ESTIMATES OF LIBYAN CRUDE PRODUCTION FOR MARCH 1976 HAVE INCREASED ONLY SLIGHTLY FROM FEBRUARY LEVELS TO 1.74 MILLION BARREL PER DAY RATE.

2. THE FOLLOWING TABLE SHOWS PROVISIONAL PRODUCTION RATES IN BARRELS PER DAY FOR ALL COMPANIES FOR MARCH 1976 AND FINAL FIGURES FOR FEB 1976:

| | FEBRUARY | MARCH |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| OASIS | 712,426 | 647,000 |
| OCCIDENTAL | 182,900 | 310,000 |
| ESSO | 265,824 | 260,000 |
| AGECO (ARAB GULF) | 194,542 | 200,000 |
| UMM AL-JAWABY | 113,616 | 72,000 |

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AGIP 155,307 153,000

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|
| MOBIL | 78,978 | 66,000 |
| AMOCO | 3,853 | 7,000 |
| AQUITAINE | 20,495 | 20,000 |
| NOC (EX-PHILLIPS) | 1,254 | 1,000 |
| WINTERSHALL | - | 1,000 |
| TOTAL | 1,729,000 | 1,737,000 |

3. DATA FOR ALL FIRMS, EXCEPT NATIONAL OIL COMPANY, CONSIDERED FIRM BY LOCAL INDUSTRY SOURCES. PRODUCTION INFORMATION FOR NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (NOC) FIRMS IS ESTIMATED FOR MARCH BUT NOC FIGURES FOR FEB ARE FIRM, AGAIN ACCORDING TO LOCAL INDUSTRY SOURCES. THE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY FIRMS ARE AGECO (ARAB GULF), UMM AL JAWABY, AND NOC (EX-PHILLIPS).

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT PETROLEUM INTELLIGENCE WEEKLY, IN ABSENCE OF OFFICIAL DATA, ESTIMATES AGECO PRODUCTION AT 270 MILLION BARRELS PER DAY RATE ACTUAL AGECO RATES HAVE PROVEN SOMEWHAT LOWER THAN THOSE ESTIMATES APPEARING IN PIW.

5. MARKETING OF LIGHT LIBYAN CRUDES CONTINUES TO BE SATISFACTORY. MOBIL AND SOME NOC HEAVIER CRUDES CONTINUE TO BE DIFFICULT TO SELL DUE LACK LARG PRICE DIFFERENTIALS FOR THOSE CRUDES IN LESS DEMAND. OCCIDENTAL'S LARGE INCREASE IN MARCH PRODUCTION REFLECTS COMPLETION MAINTENCANCE WORK IN COMPANY PIPELINES.

6. LARG CLEARLY HOPED FOR HIGHER RATE OF PRODUCTION THAN NOW SEEMS POSSIBLE FOR 1976. IT MUST BE INCREASINGLY CLEAR TO GOVT THAT INVESTMENT DECISIONS MUST BE REACHED BEFORE ITS PRODUCTION TARGETS WILL BE REALIZED.
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